

NOTICE.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY FOR CHINA, JAPAN, &c.

For 1881.

(With which has been incorporated "The CHINA DIRECTORY.")

This Work is now being prepared for publication. Additions and improvements are being made to render it more valuable as a Commercial Guide.

These Firms who have not yet returned the Printed Forms which have been sent to them to fill up would oblige by doing so as EARLY as possible.

The Publishers would be glad if New Comers, or those to whom Printed Forms have not been forwarded, would send in their Names and Addresses.

Terms for ADVERTISEMENTS may be learned on application at the Office.

Daily Press Office, November 20th, 1880.

NOTICE.

S. WATSON AND CO. FAMILY AND DISPENSING CHEMISTS.

By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor and His Royal Highness the DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS, PERFUMERS.

PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS, DRUGGISTS, SUNDRYMAN, AND AERATED WATER MAKERS.

SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED, PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm, A. S. WATSON AND CO., HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS. Communications of Official matters should be addressed "The Editor," and those on business "The Manager," and not to individuals.

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BIRTH. At Canton, on Sunday, 21st November, the wife of HENRY B. STODOL, Canton, Cal., of a son.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, NOVEMBER 23RD, 1880.

Nor one of the four treaty ports opened to trade under the Chefoo Convention can, so far, be said to have realised the expectations formed prior to the conclusion of that abortive agreement.

Wuhu has, perhaps, of the four most nearly fulfilled the promise it gave, but the other three ports, from all of which more was expected, have disappointed foreigners.

It was believed that Wenchow would be a considerable tea-exporting port. It was thought that Ichang would prove the great outlet for the productions of Szechuen and that inland part of China comprising Shensi, Kansuh, and Kweichow, of which so little is known, and into which, owing to the difficulty of communication and the numerous barrier stations, so few foreign goods penetrate.

It was considered certain that Pakhoi, admirably situated on the west coast, and obviously the port of shipment for the products of western Kwangtung and the greater part of the province of Kwangsi, would speedily develop a large trade when thrown open. In no case, however, have events verified anticipations.

It is, however, satisfactory to note by the returns of trade for the year 1879 that the two ports which had hitherto yielded the most barren results—Ichang and Pakhoi—have latterly shown decided signs of improvement.

We published the other day Mr. Pryn's report on the trade of Pakhoi for 1879, in which he showed the sudden and gratifying increase in the trade of the port consequent upon the breaking down of the opposition to steamers and the issue of transit passes to foreigners.

Mr. Ebnor, assistant in charge of the Customs at Ichang, gives a very satisfactory account of the rising fortunes of Ichang, though the improvement is not so pronounced as that of the southern port. In his concluding remarks on the trade of Ichang, Mr. Ebnor says:—

"There is, I believe, a prosperous future in store for Ichang; but it will be when the means of communication are other than they are at present. The steamers hitherto plying between the port and Hankow are not the best that could be devised for the purpose, and, as a result, serious delays to shippers are by no means infrequent. The great detriment to trade is the uncertainty in the minds of Szechuen merchants as to how long their valuable goods, such as silk, safflower, musk, and medicines, when forwarded to Ichang, must remain exposed in boats, or stored, as was the case last year, in a rickety godown, before an opportunity of shipping occurs. Naturally enough, under these circumstances, which more or less involve loss of interest on capital, they consider it preferable to forward such merchandise by mule direct to Shashi and Hankow. Until, therefore, there is some improvement on the present class of steamer, no very great development of the trade may be expected."

The districts around Ichang are comparatively poor and there is little demand there for foreign goods, but an increasing quantity of imports find their way into Szechuen under transit passes. Suitable steamers will no doubt be long placed on the river to carry on the trade with Ichang, which is evidently destined to develop steadily if not rapidly. Pakhoi is clearly a rising port, and seems likely to grow into an important centre of commercial activity. But in both places the trade is mainly in the hands of Chinese, and seems likely to remain so, though much of the produce is shipped in foreign bottoms.

That the trade is increasing at all, however, is matter for gratification, especially as it is very recently the wisdom of opening other ports to foreign trade—and not unreasonably so from all appearances—had been several times called in question.

A mail from Hongkong closes at Singapore at one p.m. on Tuesday, 23rd inst.

We have to acknowledge receipt of the Customs returns for the July-September quarter of the year 1879.

The steamer *Kongkai*, with the mail, left for Hongkong at 9 o'clock a.m. on Sunday, 20th inst.

The *Wien*, a four-masted turret-ship, in reserve in Hongkong Harbour, steamed out to sea yesterday for the purpose of undergoing trials, and was placed in the Hoop Dock at 11 o'clock. The work will probably occupy about ten days or a fortnight, when she will return to her station off the Naval Yard.

A telegram was received by Messrs. J. & A. Matheson & Co. yesterday afternoon announcing a collision in the Yangtze between the steamer *Wien* and the *Hong Kong*, belonging to Mr. G. McLean. Both vessels are reported sunk, the latter it is believed being a total wreck, while hopes are entertained that the *Wien* may be raised with comparatively slight injuries.

No accurate details of how the accident occurred are yet to hand.

Return of visitors to the City Hall Museum for the week ending November 21st:

	EUROPEAN	CHINESE
Monday	21	413
Tuesday	21	435
Wednesday	23	462
Thursday	23	462
Friday	23	462
Saturday	23	462
Sunday	23	462
Total	137	2,137

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An occasional correspondent in the North writes to the *N. C. Daily News* as follows:—"I have not seen you any more lately simply because reliable news is scarce. The news of the rebellion in the North is so full of rumours and so full of contradictions that it is impossible to write anything that is not likely to be contradicted by some other correspondent. The only thing which seems certain in it all, is that the rebellion is spreading rapidly, and that the Government is doing its utmost to suppress it. The Chinese Ambassador at St. Petersburg (Tsching) has been previously approved of by the Chinese Emperor. This is insisted upon to prevent the recurrence of the incident of the *Chung How* and the Treaty of Livadia. Besides the late additions to the number of troops at Tientsin and Taku, I hear that reinforcements have arrived in the neighbourhood of Chofoo, a distance of 200 miles, over 20,000 soldiers are billeted in the adjacent villages. I also hear that two Russian men-of-war are to remain at Chofoo during the winter."

SUPREME COURT.

22nd November.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

SEE SING KAI AND ANOTHER V. THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK.

In this case the Court now gave judgment dismissing the rule obtained by the appellants for a new trial or the entering of a non-suit in the case.

The appellants had brought an action against the Bank for the recovery of \$10,000 advanced by the Bank to the respondents.

The respondents had pleaded that the appellants had been guilty of fraud in obtaining the money from the Bank.

The Court found in favour of the appellants, and gave judgment for the recovery of the money.

The Court also gave judgment for the recovery of interest and costs.

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MACAO.

The *Sin-pao* gives an account of a case of kidnapping by pirates, which happened recently near Macao. A boatman belonging to Sun-on was returning home from Macao. There was on board the boat himself, and a Chinese and a Portuguese. The boat was laden with a quantity of goods. The pirates immediately began to attack the boat, and the boatman was killed. The pirates then took the goods and fled. The Chinese and Portuguese were rescued by a Portuguese ship. The case is now being investigated by the Portuguese authorities.

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